REMARKS

Claim 15 has been amended. The amendment to claim 15 is for the sole purpose of clarifying the antecedent and does not change the substantive scope of the claim.

Applicants request entry of this Rule 116 Response because the Response should not entail any further search by the Examiner since no substantive claim amendments are being submitted and no new issues are being raised.

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures sets forth in Section 714.12 that "any amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered." Moreover, Section 714.13 sets forth that "the Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified." The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in the Advisory Action.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 11 and 14-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over an Internet article by Ceantar, at "http://www.ceantar.org/dicts/search.html" (Ceantar) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,469,354 (Hatakeyama).

As admitted by the Examiner, Ceantar does not teach, "a detection section detecting a keyword from a character string that is being input by the character input function." In addition, there is no teaching in Ceantar to link a keyword to an operation related to the characters that are being input. The Examiner alleges, however, that Hatakeyama teaches the feature identified by the above-quoted language. *See* Office Action, at pages 2 and 3.

According to Hatakeyama, positional information of all characters appearing in a document is stored as indices on a character-by-character basis. A document in which all of the characters constituting a designated or inputted search term appear in succession is sought by reference to the indices. This method requires the indices of all the characters of the document to be stored, and further, the indices to be used to search for the designated or inputted search term, that is, a keyword that is set by the user. *See* Hatakeyama, column 3, lines 24-30.

In contrast to the present invention, as defined by independent claims 1, 4, 8, 11, and 14-24, Hatakeyama does not teach or suggest, "a detection section detecting a keyword from a character string that is being input by the character input function." Hatakeyama simply

8

discloses using indices to search for a keyword that is *set by the user* to retrieve the document, not a "detection section" that *detects* a keyword *input by a character input function*. Unlike the present invention, In Hatakeyama, the keyword is not detected from a character string that is input by a character input function.

In addition, column 3, lines 50-65 of Hatakeyama describe that the stored text is decomposed into a plurality of fragmental character strings at word level, checking the inclusion relation that possibly exists among the fragmental character strings, and creating condensed texts, each composed of a set of fragmental character strings in which any character string included or covered by another character string is eliminated. In other words, the inclusion relation is checked in order to eliminate overlapping or identical fragmental character strings or keywords.

Accordingly, Hatakeyama merely teaches that the indexes are used to search the search term or keyword that has been set, and that the inclusion relation is checked to eliminate the overlapping of fragmental character stings or keywords. There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion in Hatakeyama to carry out a desired operation related to the characters that are being input directly using a keyword that is detected from a character string input by a character input function. This is due to Hatakeyama's failure to teach the detection of a keyword from a character string that is input by a character input function. In addition, there is no teaching or suggestion in Hatakeyama to link a keyword to an operation related to characters that are being input.

On the other hand, the present invention detects the keyword from the character string that is being input by the character input function, that is, during a character input operation or process. Since the keyword can be detected during the character input function, it is possible to carry out a desired operation related to the characters that are being input by the character input function, such as searching a dictionary, starting a program and starting a conversion program directly using the detected keyword, when inputting the text of mail, for example. For this reason, the desired operation related to the characters that are being input by the character input function can be carried out without interrupting the character input function.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 4, 8, 11, and 14-24 are patentable over Ceantar in view of Hatakeyama, as neither Ceantar nor Hatakeyama, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the above-identified feature. As dependent claim 2 depends from independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 is patentable over Hatakeyama, for at least the reason offered above with respect to claim 1.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §

103(a) as being unpatentable over Ceantar, in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6665838 B1 (Brown). Claims 5 and 9 are dependent upon the base claims 4 and 8, respectively, which are clearly patentable over Ceantar and Hatakeyama, as discussed above. Brown is directed to presenting content from a webpage in a distributed database. Brown is completely silent as to the feature identified by the above-quoted language of independent claims 4 and 8, from which claims 5 and 9 respectively depend. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 5 and 9 are patentable over Ceantar in view of Brown, as neither Ceantar nor Brown, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the above-identified feature of claims 5 and 9 via claims 4 and 8.

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 6 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ceantar in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6377993 B1 (Brandt). As previously discussed, claims 4 and 11, from which claims 6 and 12 respectively depend, are clearly patentable over Ceantar. Brandt is directed to a data management tool that provides a common GUI that enables viewing of various types of priced call detail data reports relating to telecommunications services. Brandt does not teach or suggest, "a detection section detecting a keyword from a character string that is being input by the character input function."

On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 3, 7, 10, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ceantar in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6157935, to Tran (Tran) and further in view of Hatakeyama.

As previously indicated, neither Ceantar nor Hatakeyama teaches or suggests the above-identified feature, as recited in claims 3, 7, 10, and 13 via their respective independent claims 1, 4, 8, and 11. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are not taught or suggested by Tran. Tran is directed to a portable computer system that manages data using a processor. In particular, Tran includes an input recognizer adapted to receive non-cursive handwritings. Tran is completely silent as to the above-identified feature of the claims of the present invention.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.
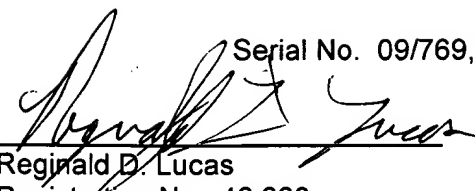
Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

10

Date: _4 May 05_   By: _[signature]_   Serial No. 09/769,380

Reginald D. Lucas
Registration No. 46,883

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501